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is, it is something frankly to have recognized liberty as a goal and resolutely to have kept one's eye upon it; it is much to have discerned the unity which lies behind her varying faces, even though, like Mr. Mackinnon, one is content to assume it without discussion. What really interests him, indeed, though his book shows everywhere the influence of recent research as to the growth of political theory, and though he devotes in each volume a chapter expressly to the discussion of this growth, is much less the rise of the conception of liberty than the struggles, however blind, for its achievement. It is to these stirring episodes that his narrative is chiefly devoted, and with a glow of sympathy that lends both cogency and fire to his style. Of fresh research or original speculation there is, for the most part, little enough. Though he has dipped often and fruitfully into the contemporary sources, it has been for color rather than for light. The books to which he is most indebted—they, too, are conscientiously listed at the end of his chapters—are the manuals and monographs familiar to all scholars. From them he has here drawn for us what he doubtless meant to draw—a brilliant and inspiring series of lectures. If this seem less than the promise of his title, it is but fair to note that the first of the present volumes professes to be only an introduction, and that the second grows in learning as it progresses.

Where so much has been done, and well done, it is ungracious to point out defects. In the field of political history Mr. Mackinnon's reading, if by no means exhaustive, has been wisely chosen, and his instinct for facts is singularly sound; it is only his bibliographies which, here as in his earlier books, betray a carelessness strange for an academic writer. If his love for the dramatic leads him still to cling to legends like those of Tell and Winkelried, it is not often from ignorance of what is urged against them. But when he turns to the history of social, of intellectual, of religious liberty, his information is less ample. Even in his chapters on the Reformation, where his vigor is at its best, his reading is often sadly in arrears. How can a modern scholar write of the tolerance of the German reformers without knowing the studies of Nikolaus Paulus? How of Calvin and his opponents without knowing Buisson's *Castellion*? Yet even here Mr. Mackinnon's intuitions serve him well. Taken all in all, his book is both readable and instructive. It may safely be commended to all whose enthusiasm for liberty needs a stimulant.

A Short History of Italy (476-1900). By HENRY DWIGHT SEDGWICK. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. 1905. Pp. x, 443.)

THIS is one of those books the object of which is to tabulate results under strict avoidance of discussion. If we would be fair to the author, we must recognize that under the necessities inherent in the nature of his task he would have to strive for swiftness, brevity, breadth, and in-

telligent appreciation, remaining watchfully on the lookout against the details which are the product of special studies, and dexterously skirting all debatable questions. In consequence the amount left out is almost the sum of the minute and special information accumulated since history became a science, while there is offered in compensation that general survey for which the demand is perennial and without which the close investigator would run the risk of degenerating into a mere grub and of losing touch with the essential processes of society.

Mr. Sedgwick's method may be illustrated by opening his book at random. In chapter XI. he deals with the rise of the communes. The long and vivacious debate which has been carried on over their origin is just glanced at, and the whole complex question disposed of with the statement that there they are, products of new social activities, prepared to make war upon and displace the clumsy and wasteful feudal organization which hampers them. The breathless pace of the narrative threatens to become indecorous, and leaves us wondering if it was not possible to make a pause and enlighten us with some of that instructive matter about the timid beginnings of self-government collected by such writers as Ficker, Villari, and Davidsohn. The investiture issue, Barbarossa's championship of beaten feudalism, the invasion of Charles VIII., all the phenomena of fifteen hundred years of evolution are summarized with the same unvarying rapidity. By this method the countless circumstances, the sum of which constitutes life now as then, are reduced to a few ordered formulae, most suggestively and spiritedly presented by the author, but calculated to mislead the unwary reader into the belief that history is divided into definite chapters, each of which, like a problem in geometry, presents an issue solvable by rules of reason and terminating in a triumphant Q. E. D. Of course the author is aware of this fallacious simplicity, and tries to counteract it with a generous selection of contemporary utterances, which envelop each period in its proper atmosphere. Henry IV. and Gregory are permitted to state each his own side of their quarrel, St. Francis appears to us mirrored in the eyes of his contemporaries, Dante is bidden bear witness for Henry VII. and his imperial claims, Machiavelli, Aretino, and Cellini renew the cinque-cento with actual words from their own mouths. These selections are uniformly made with a taste and precision which give proof of wide reading and, above all, of the most delicate appreciation of the subtleties of the ever fascinating Italian race.

So much it was necessary to say if the author's method of swift generalizations, corrected and illustrated with pregnant excerpts from characteristic documents, was to be made intelligible. The attractive feature of this book is that behind the method rises a personality. Mr. Sedgwick's relation to his material is so sympathetic, his spirit so free and masterful, that he never lets his facts, innumerable though they be, reduce him to the despondent tone into which writers of general histories almost invariably drop. He furnishes proof of the great advantage to the historian of being also a literary artist. Without his

lively gift of phrase—which after all is a gift of insight—the author could not have given us his many concise and luminous statements on a long line of princes, ministers, poets, and artists. It is easy to make an anthology of his epigrams. They abound on every page. S. Maria degli Angeli “covers the Portiuncula of St. Francis, like a bowl turned over a forget-me-not” (p. 306). Frederick II. suggests a Caesarean Byron, Carlo Alberto an Italian Hamlet. Napoleon in Italy “arranged the peninsula as a housekeeper shifts the furniture in an unsatisfactory room” (p. 365). If his figures and comparisons do not always hit the mark, they invariably light a taper which throws a thread of light far into the darkness.

The proportions in a sketch of this sort are a grave embarrassment. One might complain that the nineteenth century has received too little attention, the seventeenth and eighteenth too much. And yet we would not sacrifice a word of the delicate and ironical treatment of Italian decay. The conclusion with its twentieth-century outlook is decidedly meagre. Against these doubts stands the fact that this book securely constructs the essential framework of Italian history. Mere differences of view as to relative emphasis will keep no fair-minded person from doing full justice to the author's grasp, his sober judgment, and his charm of manner.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

Ethnographische Beiträge zur germanisch-slavischen Altertumskunde. Von K. RHAMM. Teil I. *Die Grosshufen der Nordgermanen.* (Braunschweig: Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn. 1905. Pp. xiv, 853.)

IN this substantial volume the question of the structure of early Teutonic society is approached from the point of view of the agrarian historian. Believing that Anglo-Saxon institutions should not be studied in isolation, the author restates the conclusions of Hanssen, Meitzen, and Maitland, compares them, and discusses at length, in the light of Scandinavian and Frisian evidence, a number of special points. With the object of elucidating the relation of the social classes to the land, he investigates the agricultural arrangements, field measures, plows, and units of landholding of the North German stocks (the Scandinavians, Anglo-Saxons, and Frisians). In pursuing this line of inquiry the author is struck by the fact that a large *hufe* of from twenty to thirty hectares is common to all the North Germans, and accordingly discusses in turn the hide, the carucate, the old Danish *bol*, and the Swedish *attungshufe*, together with their respective subdivisions. The size of the plow-team and the weight of the plows, too, are taken up with the conclusion that the heavy plow with the full team of eight oxen was the original implement of all North Germans.

Of especial interest is the section of the book headed “Die Jard und das Breitensystem.” In the view of Herr Rhamm too little atten-